

From: Timothy Finn <tf0331a@american.edu>  
 To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K.  
 Date: Thu, Jul 22, 1999 1:00 PM  
 Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
 Commissioner Michael Powell  
 Commissioner Susan Ness  
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,  
 Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.  
 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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AUG 02 1999

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED  
 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition ([mec@tao.ca](mailto:mec@tao.ca)), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast

pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.

6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.

7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.

8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.

9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.

10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.

11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.

12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair:  
Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:  
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia  
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University  
Nancy Kranich--Librarian  
Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights  
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement  
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania  
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting  
Mark Crispin Miller--New York University  
Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio  
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Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored  
Ellen Braune--Publicist  
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology  
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press  
Juliet Schor--Harvard University  
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

name=Timothy Finn  
street=1807 Kilbourne Pl., NW  
city=Washington  
state=DC  
zip=20010  
=Send to FCC

**From:** Matthew A. Saunders <tasteblind@yahoo.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 22, 1999 1:39 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

DK 99-25

This email was submitted by Matthew A. Saunders (tasteblind@yahoo.com)  
on Thursday, July 22, 1999 at 12:39:01

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comments: The need for public access to radio has increased even more since the Telecommunications Act of '96. This would be a huge step towards a more diverse and satisfying radio dial.

Aug 02 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: 3333 Paper Mill Rd.

city: Huntingdon Valley

state: PA

zip: 19006

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
455 Twelfth Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition  
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

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Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:  
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia  
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University  
Nancy Kranich--Librarian  
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George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement  
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania  
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Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley  
Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education  
David C. Korten, Author, and Chair of the Positive Futures Network,  
publishers of YES Magazine  
Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored  
Ellen Braune--Publicist  
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology  
Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots



**Movement for Self Determination**

Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press

Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

**From:** Scott DeLong <Spyder007@usinternet.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 21, 1999 4:07 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This email was submitted by Scott DeLong (Spyder007@usinternet.com)  
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 15:07:45

comments: I support the creation of an LPFM radio system in the US.  
We need more diverse radio stations in MN.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

address: 4602 Chantrey Ct.

city: Minnetonka

state: MN

zip: 55345

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore  
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cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

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In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio

Empowerment Coalition ([mec@tao.ca](mailto:mec@tao.ca)) and Americans for Radio Diversity ([ard@radparker.com](mailto:ard@radparker.com)), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

**From:** James Hannon <chemistry@iname.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 21, 1999 4:16 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by James Hannon (chemistry@iname.com)  
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 15:16:26

DP 99-25  
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AUG 02 1999

comments: Open the airwaves... The Federal Government should never have been allowed to take 'ownership' of the electro magnetic frequency spectrum. There is no value add there. The 'public interest' is a fiction, since there's no such thing as 'the public'. There are only individuals. Strict regulation, 'frequency sales', and limitation of choice in no way benefit the individual American. Don't stop with Micro Stations... Let the whole thing go. Net Broadcast will bypass radio listenership within 10 years in any event.

address: 306 St. Tropez

city: Laguna Beach

state: CA

zip: 92651

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia

Peter Franck, San Francisco

Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.

Alan Korn, San Francisco

Greg Ruggiero, New York City

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Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University

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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

**From:** James Russell <jrussell@wnec.edu>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 21, 1999 4:39 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

DK99-23

This email was submitted by James Russell (jrussell@wnec.edu)  
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 15:39:03

RECEIVED

comments: A variety of broadcasts are necessary on the airwaves to reflect the diversity of our nations  
people, something large radio corporations simply cannot give. Please support micropower radio!

address: Box 1487, WNEC

address2: 1215 Wilbraham Road

city: Springfield

state: MA

zip: 01119

Submit: Send to FCC

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EX PARTE OR LATE

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
455 Twelfth Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition  
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25  
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications  
Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to  
us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves.  
We have become increasingly concerned about the growing  
concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that  
the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase  
opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

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One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio

Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press

Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author



**From:** Michael Lewis <markl@couriernet.infi.net>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 21, 1999 3:23 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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This email was submitted by Michael Lewis (markl@couriernet.infi.net)  
on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 14:23:48

AUG 02 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I support the creation of an LPFM radio system in the US, if for nothing else for the fact that it would add depth to our culturally diverse nation.

address: 7601 blue boy pl

city: louisville

state: ky

zip: 40291

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
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